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BOROUGH OF LYMINGTON

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the Year 1958



JUNE, 1959.

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS OF THE BOROUGH OF LYMINGTON

I submit for your information and consideration my first annual report on the health and sanitary circumstances of your Borough. I succeeded Dr. Croft Watts on 1st September, 1958, and therefore much of the information detailed in the following pages relates to work performed prior to my advent and is collated from the records left by my predecessor.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

The Borough occupies an enviable situation, lying as it does between the New Forest on the North and the sea to the South. On the West its boundary is the Walkford Brook which separates it from the Borough of Christchurch, and the Rural District of Ringwood and Fordingbridge, and on the East it is bounded by the estuary of the Lymington River with its splendid yachting facilities. The area is largely agricultural with two main centres of population, the ancient town of Lymington to the East and the urban area of New Milton to the West. Lesser centres of population are at Hordle, Milford and Pennington. The area has a steadily rising population, largely by immigration, and many light industries have been established in what is, after all, the kind of place where people like to live. The subsoil varies from clay to gravel and the climate is equable.

RAINFALL FOR 1958

The following figures have been kindly supplied by the Director of the Efford Experimental Horticultural Station.

January	...	...	4.14	July	...	...	2.03
February	...	...	2.57	August	...	...	3.26
March	...	...	1.38	September	...	...	5.21
April	...	...	0.54	October	...	...	2.95
May	...	...	2.36	November	...	...	2.86
June	...	...	3.19	December	...	...	4.27
				TOTAL	...	34.76.	

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area : 13,730 acres.

Population : Registrar General's estimate for mid-year 1958—
25,210

Number of inhabited houses : 9,098.

Rateable value : £424,371.

Sum represented by a penny rate : £1,650.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1958
(as supplied by the Registrar General)

	Total	Male	Female	Borough of Lymington	England and Wales
Live Births					
Total	316	161	155		
Legitimate	289	146	143		
Illegitimate	27	15	12		
Live Birth Rate (comparability factor 1.11)					
per 1,000 population				12.53	16.4
after application of comparability factor				13.9	
Still Births					
Total	6	3	3		
Legitimate	6	3	3		
Illegitimate	—	—	—		
Still Birth Rate					
per 1,000 live and still births				18.63	21.6
Total Live and Still Births				322	
Infant Deaths					
Deaths under 1 year of age					
Total	3	2	1		
Legitimate	3	2	1		
Illegitimate	—	—	—		
Deaths under 4 weeks of age					
Total	2	2	—		
Legitimate	2	2	—		
Illegitimate	—	—	—		
Infant Mortality Rate					
per 1,000 live births		Total		9.49	22.5
per 1,000 live births		Legitimate		10.38	
per 1,000 live births		Illegitimate		Nil	
Neonatal Mortality Rate (first 4 weeks)					
per 1,000 live births				6.33	16.2
Illegitimate Live Births					
per cent of total live births				8.5	
Maternal Deaths (including abortion)				Nil	
Maternal Mortality Rate					
per 1,000 (live and still) births		Total		Nil	0.43
Deaths	416	225	191		
Death Rate (comparability factor 0.69)					
per 1,000 population				16.5	11.7
after application of comparability factor				11.4	
Special Causes					
Death Rate per 1,000 population					
Tuberculosis				0.08	0.10
Pneumonia				0.51	0.56
Influenza				0.24	0.05
Cancer (lung and bronchus)				0.48	0.44
(all causes)				3.97	2.12
Causes of Death :				Males	Females
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	2	—
2. Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	—	—
3. Siphilitic disease	...	...	...	—	—
4. Diphtheria	...	...	...	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	...	...	...	—	—
6. Meningococcal infections	...	...	...	1	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	—	—
8. Measles	...	...	...	—	—

	Males	Females
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases ...	—	—
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach ...	3	2
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ...	—	—
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast ...	—	8
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus ...	—	4
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms ...	28	15
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia ...	1	2
16. Diabetes ...	—	—
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	26	48
18. Coronary disease, angina ...	51	24
19. Hypertension with heart disease ...	7	3
20. Other heart disease ...	28	35
21. Other circulatory disease ...	11	8
22. Influenza ...	3	3
23. Pneumonia ...	8	5
24. Bronchitis ...	9	3
25. Other diseases of respiratory system ...	3	2
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ...	—	1
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ...	—	—
28. Nephritis and nephrosis ...	—	1
29. Hyperplasia of prostate ...	7	—
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ...	—	—
31. Congenital malformations ...	—	1
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	14	15
33. Motor vehicle accidents ...	2	1
34. All other accidents ...	8	4
35. Suicide ...	1	3
36. Homicide and operations of War ...	—	—
TOTAL (all causes)	225	191

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE

The following notifications were received during the year :

Scarlet Fever ...	1	Pneumonia ...	3
Measles ...	22	Puerperal Pyrexia ...	2
Whooping Cough ...	25	Dysentery ...	2

TUBERCULOSIS

	Total	Pulmonary		Non-Pulm	
		M	F	M	F
Number on register at 31.12.58	290	118	99	41	32
New notifications 1958	8	1	2	4	1
Transfers from other areas	4	3	1	—	—

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

Section 47

No action was required under the above section during the year.

HOUSING

47 Council houses were completed during the year, together with 259 built by private enterprise. The continuing demand for Council accommodation is shown by the waiting list of 395, which includes 84 applications for old people's accommodation.

Council owned property at 31.12.58 :

Pre-War permanent houses ...	439
Post-War permanent houses ...	774
Pre-fabs ...	100
Conversions (Fairlea Flats) ...	4
	<hr/>
	1,317
	<hr/>

PUBLIC HEALTH (SHIPS) REGULATIONS, 1952

The chief commercial use of the river is by the British Railways in their Ferry Service to and from the Isle of Wight; one business house uses the river for conveying their merchandise from the Isle of Wight to Lymington. Other than the above the primary use of the river is for yachting and boat building.

SHIPPING ENTERING PORT

Coastwise vessels 59

Foreign vessels Nil

The Mooring Station for infected ships remains as reported in previous years. No cases of infectious disease were reported during the year.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

(1) Public Health Officers:—

Medical Officer of Health—

E. Croft Watts, M.D., C.M., F.R.C.S.E., D.P.H.

Retired May, 1958.

D. J. N. McNab, V.R.D., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

(also Medical Officer of Health of Borough of Christchurch and Rural District of Ringwood and Fordingbridge and an Assistant County Medical Officer for the County of Hampshire).

Appointed 1.9.58.

Senior Public Health Inspector—

N. Raw, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

First Additional Public Health Inspector—

J. G. Jenkins, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Second Additional Public Health Inspector—

M. G. Tomkins, Cert.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

(2) Laboratory Facilities :

Bacteriological examinations are carried out at the Public Health Laboratory, Gloucester Road, Boscombe, which is under the direction of Dr. G. J. G. King. We are greatly indebted to Dr. King and his technicians for their ever willing advice and assistance.

Chemical analysis are performed by a Public Analyst, Mr. A. S. Carlos.

(3) Hospitals :

Lymington & District (King Edward VII Memorial)

	Hospital	General
Milford-on-Sea War Memorial Hospital		General
Lymington Infirmary		Chronic Sick

Barton-on-Sea Maternity Home

White House Children's Sanatorium, Milford-on-Sea

Infectious Disease is treated at Southampton Isolation Hospital.

(4) Tuberculosis :

The clinic facilities for the treatment, prevention, and after care of this infection are provided jointly by the Regional Hospital Board and the County Council. The clinic serving this area is held in the County Council Health Centre, Millhams Street, Christchurch, and is conducted by Dr. Stuart Robertson, who is also Medical Director of the Bournemouth Mass Radiography Unit. Dr. Robertson holds a joint appointment with the Regional Hospital Board and the County Council. A specialist Health Visitor is provided by the County Council.

A joint voluntary Tuberculosis Care Committee is run for the Borough of Lymington, Christchurch, and the Rural District of Ringwood and Fordingbridge. The Committee is under the chairmanship of Lady Manners and is widely representative. Much devoted work is carried out, both in the collection of money, and in service to local sufferers.

SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL

Ambulance Service

The district is served from the main Ambulance Station at Hillcroft, New Street, Lymington—Tel. Lymington 2331. There is a sub-station at New Milton.

Nursing Service

6 District Nurses and Mid-Wives are provided. In addition three Health Visitors work in the area.

Home Help Service

This service and the Nursing Services are administered locally by the District Health Sub-Committee.

The Divisional Home Help Organiser is Miss W. P. Stevens, Druitt Building, Christchurch—Tel. Christchurch 900.

Ante Natal Clinic

County Council Health Clinic,

“Hillcroft,” New Street, Lymington

2nd and 4th Wednesdays in the month at 2 p.m.

Child Welfare Centres

Baptist School Hall, Ashley, New Milton	3rd Monday
Women's Institute Hall, Hordle	3rd Thursday
Hillcroft, New Street, Lymington	Every Friday
Church Hall, Milford-on-Sea	4th Thursday
British Legion Hall, New Milton	2nd and 4th Wednesday
Methodist Church Hall, Barton-on-Sea	1st and 3rd Tuesday
Women's Institute Hall, Pennington	2nd and 4th Tuesday

School Health Services

School medical inspections are carried out periodically by Assistant County Medical Officers and Health Visitors.

Minor Ailment and Special Clinics are held in the County Council Health Centre, Hillcroft, New Street, Lymington.

Smallpox Vaccination

This is carried out free of charge by family doctors and at the Child Welfare Centres. The records are maintained by the County Medical Officer. Family doctors may, and normally do charge for certificates of vaccination.

303 Primary vaccinations and 180 re-vaccinations were reported. 79.1% of babies under 12 months were vaccinated which compares favourably with the County average of 67.8%.

Diphtheria and Whooping Cough Immunisation

This scheme is administered locally and the records maintained by your Medical Officer of Health, on behalf of the County Medical Officer. Treatment is carried out by family doctors and, at Child Welfare Centres and Schools, by Assistant County Medical Officers.

The following inoculations were carried out during the year :

	Primary	Booster
Diphtheria Immunisation alone	44	799
Combined Diphtheria/Whooping Cough	28	13
Triple Diphtheria/Whooping Cough/Tetanus	171	36
Whooping Cough only	12	3
Diphtheria/Tetanus combined	—	—
	<hr/> 255	<hr/> 851

Poliomyelitis Vaccination

This scheme is administered locally and the records maintained by your Medical Officer of Health on behalf of the County Medical Officer. Treatment is largely carried out by family doctors, but it can also be obtained at Child Welfare Centres, and mass vaccination at factories, business premises or special sessions may be carried out by County Council Medical staff.

In September the eligible age groups were extended to cover all those born after 1st January, 1933. In addition there are certain priority groups—notably doctors, nurses, hospital workers, ambulance personnel, and their families.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

REPORT OF THE SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Water Supply:—

Water to the Borough is supplied from two undertakings, Lymington Town being served by the Corporation owned works at Ampress and the remainder of the district by the West Hampshire Water Company. Mains water is generally available throughout the whole of the Borough, there being only a few outlying dwellings dependent upon Wells for their source of supply.

LYMINGTON TOWN'S SUPPLY

This undertaking is under the supervision of the Borough Engineer. The source of the supply is from two bore holes, one of 16" dia. and 376ft. deep and the other 18" dia. and 378ft. deep. The output from these works during the year was 149,208,000 gallons, an increase of 17,149,000 gallons on the previous year. Approximately 2,000,000 gallons of water were supplied in bulk to the West Hampshire Water Company.

A new mains pump of 20,000 g.p.h. has been installed on one existing diesel engine and other mains pumps re-arranged.

During the year representations have been made in regard to the possible amalgamation of this undertaking with the West Hampshire Water Company. The Council feel that the source at Ampress should be maintained and are not in favour of amalgamation.

All dwellings in the Lymington area are connected to the mains water supply.

New mains laid during the year were:—

120 yards of 6" in Station Street and
300 yards of 3" in Bridge Road area.

New tappings totalled 45 including 2 x 3" supplies.

WEST HAMPSHIRE WATER COMPANY serving

New Milton, Milford-on-Sea, Pennington and Hordle.

During the year the company has laid 5,531 yards of new mains as under:—

12" dia. main	...	100 yards
8" dia. main	...	2,214 yards
6" dia. main	...	140 yards
3" dia. main	...	2,625 yards
2" dia. main	...	57 yards
1½" dia. main	...	170 yards
1¼" dia. main	...	225 yards
New tappings totalled 320.		

The Chief Engineer to the Company (who has kindly supplied the above information) also states that the new reservoir at Sway is now providing adequate reserve storage facilities for water supplied to the Borough.

Number of occupied dwellings in the Borough	9,098
Number provided with water from the mains	9,086
Estimated population served by mains water	25,168

Analysis of samples :

EXAMINATION	MAINS SUPPLIES		Wells	RESULTS	
	Lymington	W.H.W. Co.		Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Bacteriological	14	15	2	29	2
Chemical	3	2	—	5	—

The result of the chemical analysis of the Lymington Town's supply and of the West Hampshire Water Company's supply is shown below. Samples taken June 1958, and results as parts per million.

Chemical Examination	Lymington Town's Supply	West Hants Water Co. Supply
Ammonia, free	0.011	0.080
Ammonia, Albuminoid	0.022	0.080
Nitrites	0.007	0.022
Nitrates, as Nitric Nitrogen	2.39	4.17
Oxygen absorbed in 15 mins. at 80°F	0.330	1.00
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 80°F	0.375	1.190
Chlorine	35.00	24.00
as Sodium Chloride	58.5	39.6
Hardness, temporary	152.5	195.0
Hardness, permanent	73.5	47.0
Hardness, total	226.0	242.0
Total solids	395.0	337.0
pH Value	8.9	8.8
Iron	Nil	Nil
Copper	Nil	faint trace
Lead	Nil	Nil
Zinc	faint trace	Nil
Free Chlorine	Nil	0.06

Drainage and Sewerage:—

The remodelment of the Barton Sewage Works has now been approved by the Ministry, this scheme is to cost £55,000. A scheme for a new pumping plant at Peters Lane, Ashley, has been submitted to the Ministry for approval.

During the year drainage defects at 39 premises were remedied, including 5 premises connected to the main sewer, and two properties provided with new cesspool drainage systems.

A sample of the sewage effluent at the Barton works was examined bacteriologically at the Public Health Laboratory, and the report showed the presence of Salmonella Para-typhoid B. It was felt that an effort should be made to try and trace the source. This was quite an interesting piece of field work, and therefore I think is worth while enlarging upon in this annual report.

There are 5 main trunk sewers discharging into the Barton Sewage Works, and for the purpose of this investigation they were numbered 1 to 5. No. 4 section was found to be negative to para-typhoid and examinations were made to Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 5 sections. The organisms found in Nos. 1, 2 and 3 were of a type known as "3a" and No. 5 section of the type "Taunton." The typhoid organism was found in No. 1 section, but on following this up, this section and also Nos. 2 and 3 were found to be negative to both typhoid and para-typhoid. These particular sewers serve the Camp Sites at the western end of New Milton and it seemed likely that the infected person, or persons, had left the district and had probably been on holiday in the Camp Sites.

No. 5 section, however, remained positive to para-typhoid and we concentrated on trying to trace the source. As a result of the examination of swabs para-typhoid organisms were found in the sewers in the Fir Avenue, Hale Avenue and Milton Grove areas, also in the sewers at the western end of Ashley Road. This rather confused the issue until it was found that the Ashley Pumping Station discharged the sewage into the sewers in both Fir Avenue and in Ashley Road.

We were then obliged to check the sewers which were dealt with by the Ashley Pumping Station and were able to eliminate a large part of the sewered area from further investigation. Finally by eliminating blocks of properties in the suspected area we were able to trace the affected house. This was then referred to the Medical Officer of Health to interview the occupants, and after examination of specimens, a carrier was confirmed.

It perhaps should be mentioned that the para-typhoid organisms found in the carrier were of the "Taunton" type, the same as was found in the sewer Section 4.

Altogether 87 swabs were used and of these 34 were taken from private domestic drainage systems.

This was quite an instructive effort and the successful issue was chiefly due to the interest and care taken by Mr. Jenkins. The Public Health Laboratory at Boscombe, where the examinations were carried out were very helpful and advised us on many of the problems which arose.

Public Cleansing:—

There is no change in Refuse Collection and disposal which is under the supervision of the Borough Engineer. The collection of house refuse is once weekly and there are two collections weekly in the main shopping areas. All refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping at a central site in the Hordle district.

Rivers and Streams:—

Progress has been made in reducing the contamination of the stream at Old Milton. One premises, the drainage from which discharged into the stream has been closed, another has diverted unclean water to the foul water sewer, and foul drainage from a farm has also been connected to the foul water sewer. There are possibilities of further sources of contamination, but these have not been traced. Bacteriological examination of samples taken from the stream have shown an improvement.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

Inspections during 1958 :

DESCRIPTION	Inspections	Action reqd.	Remedied	NOTICES	
				In-formal	Form-al
Milk and Dairies	139	8	7	—	1
Dwellinghouses:					
(Housing Act)	408	48	17	7	6
(Public Health Act) ...	204	20	13	8	—
(Rent Act)	70	13	4	—	13
Council House Applications ...	122	—	—	—	—
Drainage Visits and Tests ...	608	50	39	12	—
Water Supplies	41	3	3	—	—
Camp Sites/					
Moveable Dwellings ...	454	51	19	3	—
Schools	7	1	1	—	—
Factories Act	331	45	37	5	—
Clean Air Act	43	7	7	—	—
Business Premises	24	1	1	1	—
Food & Drugs Act, including					
Food Hygiene Regulations ...	947	88	78	9	1
Food Inspections	240	—	—	—	—
Shops Act	34	2	1	—	—
Slaughterhouses/Knackers Yards	21	—	—	—	—
Refuse Sites and					
Insanitary accumulations	17	1	1	—	—
Piggeries	2	1	1	—	—
Disinfections	7	—	—	—	—
Notifiable & other Diseases ...	6	—	—	—	—
House Pests	39	10	10	—	—
Sea Water Baths	19	—	—	—	—
Watercourses	53	2	2	1	—
Miscellaneous	95	—	—	—	—
<hr/>					
Total	3931	351	241	46	21
Rats & Mice	3021	482	460	—	—
Petroleum Regulations	83	4	4	—	—
<hr/>					
Grand Total	7035	837	705	46	21

ANALYSIS OF SAMPLES TAKEN BY PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

	No. of Samples	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Milk	71	67	4
Bottle Rinses	18	9	9
Orange Juice	4	4	—
Ice Cream	76	76	—
Water	36	34	2
Watercourses	17	—	17
Food	1	1	—
Sea Water Baths	31	28	3
Samples from			
Barton Sewage Works			
Bacteriological	1	Salmonella Paratyphi B present	
Chemical	1	—	1
Sewer Swabs	87	62 neg.	25 pos.
(for paratyphi B)			
Faeces	6	5	1 pos.
			Paratyphi B

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

Factories in the Borough total 153; 134 power factories and 19 non-Power. Defects found and results of action taken are as follows :

Premises	No. on Register	Inspections	Defects Found	Defects Remedied
Non-Power Factories	... 19	31)	45	37
Power Factories	... 134	300)		

Analysis of Defects

			Found	Remedied
Want of Cleanliness	...	...	4	3
Sanitary Conveniences :—				
(a) Insufficient	...	...	2	2
(b) Unsuitable	...	...	28	22
Other Offences	...	...	11	10

Types of Factories Registered

Builders and Ancillary Work	...	30
Garages	... ..	29
Dairies	... ..	4
Boat Builders and Ancillary Works		5
Tailors	... ..	4
Radio, Cycle and Electrical	... ..	15
Bakehouses	... ..	9
Laundries	... ..	4
Engineering	... ..	16
Boot Repairs	... ..	7
Printing	... ..	4
Upholstery	... ..	6
Miscellaneous	... ..	20

COMPLAINTS AND NUISANCES

Complaints during the year totalled 95 and of these action was required in 48 instances. The nature of the complaints and result of action are show below :—

Nature of Complaint	Found	Remedied
Housing Defects	... .. 5	5
Drainage Defects	... .. 12	12
Fumes	... .. 2	2
Insanitary Deposits	... .. 2	2
House Pests	... .. 8	8
Food Complaints	... .. 7	7
Smoke Nuisance	... .. 8	8
Miscellaneous	... .. 4	4

MILK AND DAIRIES ACT AND REGULATIONS

There are 5 registered dairies and 28 registered distributors of milk in the Borough. There are four pasteurising establishments, one has a H.T.S.T. plant and the other three pasteurise under the Holder process. Powers of licensing have been delegated to this authority by the County Council and the plants and premises are subject to inspection by officers of the Public Health Department. Samples of pasteurised milk are taken at least once monthly from each pasteurising establishment; the samples are examined at the Public Health Laboratory, Boscombe, and the results are reported to the Milk Division of the Ministry of Food. Samples of Raw Milk are also taken and laboratory examinations of washed bottles are carried out periodically.

ANALYSIS OF SAMPLES

Class of Milk	No. of samples taken	Appropriate Tests	Samples	
			Passed	Failed
Pasteurised	10	Phosphatase	9	1
		Methylene Blue	10	—
T.T. Pasteurised	48	Phosphatase	45	3
		Methylene Blue	48	—
Raw Milk	13	Methylene Blue	13	—

Two samples of Raw Milk were taken for biological tests and the reports were negative, there being no evidence of infection with Tuberculosis after 42 days.

The four failures mentioned in the table above were caused by under pasteurising due to inaccurate indicating and recording thermometers. A notice was served on one of the dairymen concerned under Sec. 44(2)(a) of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955. This is a Notice of Breach of Condition of Licence held by a Retailer for a specified area and is a warning that if a further breach occurs the dairyman may be prosecuted.

Unsatisfactory reports were again received on samples of washed bottles, all the dairies being concerned. The usual steps of checking detergents and the efficiency of the bottle washing machines were taken but the results during the year were not entirely satisfactory. There is no legal standard of cleanliness for milk bottles and although the colony counts were high in some cases there were no failures in the Methylene Blue test of milk examined.

There are 51 milk producers in the Borough of Lymington holding Tuberculin Tested Licences and 2 others are non-designated milk producers. This information has been kindly supplied by the Hampshire Agricultural Executive Committee.

MEAT, SLAUGHTERHOUSES, FOOD STORES, etc.

There is one licensed slaughterhouse in the Borough and one licensed Knacker's Yard.

POST MORTEM INSPECTION

(figures for 1957 in brackets)

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	116 (109)	85 (17)	36 (55)	12 (2)	1104 (761)
Number inspected	116	85	36	12	1104
All Diseases except Tuberculosis					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	1	3	—	4
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	21	35	—	—	43
Percentage of the number inspected affected with dis- ease other than Tuberculosis	18.1 (41.3)	42.3 (29.4)	8.3 (1.8)	— (—)	4.2 (28)
Tuberculosis only					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	—	3	—	—	16
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tub- erculosis	— (1.0)	3.5 (—)	— (—)	— (—)	1.4 (1.3)

The number of horses slaughtered at the Knackers Yard during the year was 37 and 43 horse carcasses were received during the same period.

The following foods were examined at retail shops and voluntarily surrendered as unfit for human consumption :—

Tins of Meat	...	Blown, punctured, etc.	45
" " Vegetables	...	" " "	10
" " Cheese crispies	...	" " "	1
" " Fruit	...	" " "	2
Beef	...	Bone taint	270lbs.
Pork	...	Abscess	6lbs.
Sausages	...	Sour	14lbs.
Fish (various)	...	Stale, etc.	213lbs.
Cheese	...	Mould	28lbs.
Potatoes	...	Blight	67lbs.
Apples	...	Spray taint	1lb.

PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY SERVICE

Details of specimens received from Lymington Borough :

Nose and Throat	Sputum	Faeces and Urine	Water	Milk	Ice Cream	Food	Misc.
16	11	10	100	73	76	14	274
Total 574.							

The above details have been supplied by Dr. King of the Laboratory at Boscombe, and the specimens include those sent by General Practitioners and others.

FOOD & DRUGS ACT, 1955

Food Sampling — Food Premises — Ice Cream

Report of the Chief Sampling Officer (Mr. J. S. Preston) relating to the samples of Food and Drugs, taken in Lymington Borough during the year 1958/59.

1. I beg to report that during the year ended the 31st March, 1959, 266 samples were procured under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, within the area of the Lymington Borough Council.

2. Milk Samples

The total number includes 243 milk samples, of which 129 were of the Channel Islands variety. All the samples were satisfactory, with the exception of thirteen, which consisted of Channel Islands Milk, these being obtained from three producers. The particulars are, as follows:—

(1) Of four samples, which were procured at a farm, from separate churns of milk awaiting collection by a dairyman, the contents of two churns proved to be adulterated with added water to the extent of 13 per cent and 12 per cent, respectively.

As the officer was about to take the samples from the churns, which were stood on a small truck near to the farm entrance, in the presence of one of the directors of the firm to whom the farm belonged, the latter stepped on to the truck and his movement caused the churns to be tipped over, some of the contents of three of them being lost.

During the taking of the "follow-up" samples in connection with this case, the water pipe to the milk cooler, an "Inchurn" type, became disconnected as it was being handled by the person who had caused the churns to be upset, and a considerable volume of water ran into the churn. An additional informal sample was taken from the milk affected and this was found to contain 12 per cent of added water.

Information that the cooler had been found to be defective, was subsequently received and a further visit was made to the farm. The apparatus was tested and the water outlet holes proved to be partially blocked, due to the presence of rust and leaves. Had it been used in this condition, a considerable volume of water would have passed into the milk. The cooler had previously been tested by the sampling officer, however, and then appeared to be perfectly satisfactory.

Legal proceedings were taken against the firm responsible in respect of the two adulterated official samples, and these resulted in fines and costs amounting to £66 5s. 0d. being imposed.

(2) Following an informal check, which indicated the presence of added water, six official samples were taken at the farm of the producer concerned and two of these proved to contain, respectively, 8 per cent and 7 per cent of water. Investigations were made and it appeared that some unauthorised interference with the milk might have occurred whilst it had remained in the farm dairy. No previous complaint had been made against the producer and in the circumstances, the case was dealt with by a caution.

(3) In another somewhat similar case, ten official samples were obtained from separate churns of milk after an informal check had revealed evidence of adulteration. In one instance, the sample was reported to contain 8 per cent of added water, whilst the contents of three other churns were deficient of the minimum of 4 per cent of fat required for Channel Islands Milk, by 8 per cent and, in two cases, by 2 per cent. The fat deficiencies were not considered to be particularly serious—in fact, the average of the consignment was satisfactory in this respect—but appeared to be due to natural causes. With regard to the added water, the investigations carried out tended to confirm that some unlawful interference had occurred, again without the producer's knowledge. A warning was also given in this case. It was understood that, following the sampling, certain employees at the farm had been dismissed.

3. Miscellaneous Samples

Of the 23 samples which were taken of various other foods and drugs, only one was the subject of an adverse report, as follows:

Pork Sausage—deficient of meat

This sample was reported to contain only 57 per cent of meat. Although there is no official standard for the meat content of this type of product, it is usual to find not less than 65 per cent of meat in pork sausage and pork sausage meat, and, in general, Public Analysts regard less than this amount as unsatisfactory. Although legal proceedings were not taken in connection with this sample, the vendor's attention was drawn to the position and he affirmed that it was his intention to adhere to the minimum of 65 per cent of meat, the deficiency being attributed to inadequate mixing of the ingredients by his staff. The producer was given a warning in this matter.

Since the Meat Products Order, which prescribed minima for the meat content of beef and pork sausage products, was revoked in 1953, various prosecutions have been undertaken in different parts of the country, under the general provisions of the Food and Drugs Act. These have, however, necessarily had to be decided in accordance with the merits of each particular case and the results have not been consistent. There is little doubt that a definite standard for the meat content of such articles would be welcomed by the majority of manufacturers, since the uncertainty which now prevails in certain quarters with regard to the position would be removed.

4. General

During the visits to traders' premises, attention was given to the provisions of the Labelling of Food Order and the Pharmacy and Medicines Act, with regard to the marketing of ingredients and other particulars, which are required to be given with certain foods and articles recommended as medicines.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

Food Sampling — Food Premises — Ice Cream

Food premises in the Borough total 329 made up as follows :

Restaurants, Licensed Premises, Hotels,	Clubs, etc. ...	114
School Canteens		17
Fishmongers and Fish Fryers		15
Butchers		22
Greengrocers		17
Grocery and Provisions		83
Bakers		10
Confectioners		42
Miscellaneous		9
Number of premises registered for the sale of Ice Cream:--		
Grocers		46
Cafes and Confectioners		42
Confectioners only		40
General Stores		18
Fruiterers and Greengrocers		4
Others		3
Number of registered dairies		5
Number of premises registered for the preparation of Preserved		

foods:—

Fried Fish premises	8
Grocers	20
Butchers	22
Bakery	1

Inspection of premises registered under	
the Food & Drugs Act ...	102
Inspection of premises registered under	
the Milk and Dairies Regulations ...	139
Inspection of other food premises, including visits	
under the Food Hygiene Regulations ...	845

Nine complaints were received regarding alleged food contamination and these were all fully investigated at the time. In only one case was it considered necessary to take legal proceedings; that was in respect of a piece of surgical dressing found in a loaf of bread. A fine of £10 was imposed. Warnings were given in respect of others.

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS, 1955

During the year 77 instances were found of non-compliance with the requirements of these regulations, 67 were remedied including matters outstanding from 1957.

Analysis of items dealt with:—

Wash hand basins provided/renewed	10
Sinks provided/renewed	3
Hot water supplies provided	11
Repairs to closets	1
Rooms redecorated and cleansed	28
Screening/protection of food	9
Repair/provision of food container	3
Walls, ceilings, floors, etc., repaired	8
Miscellaneous items	11

No Ice Cream is manufactured in the Borough. 76 samples of Ice Cream supplied by 7 manufacturers were taken, and all were satisfactory; 74 were Grade 1, and 2 were Grade 2. 8 samples of Ice Lollies were also taken and all were negative to coliform organisms.

TENTS, VANS AND SHEDS

There are 19 licensed camping sites in the Borough allowing for 1,575 moveable dwellings during the summer season. Ten of the sites are used residentially and as a result of a survey carried out in 1958, 322 caravans were found to be in use as permanent homes. The following statistics were obtained during the survey.

Number of licensed caravan sites used residentially	...	10
Total number of moveable dwellings permitted	... ..	954
Total number of moveable dwellings used as permanent homes		322
Average number of units per van	... ..	2.12
Number of vans occupied by adults only	... ..	235
Number of vans with children	... ..	87
Number of vans owner/occupied	... ..	302
Number of vans rented	... ..	20
Cases of overcrowding (caravans owner/occupied)	... ..	3
Number with preference for caravans and not seeking other accommodation	... ..	215
Number where occupiers are satisfied but seeking other accommodation for one reason or another	... ..	66
Numbers where occupiers are not satisfied and seeking other accommodation	... ..	19
Investigation not completed	... ..	22

The use of caravans for residential purposes has increased, there were 174 on camp sites in 1952, and 260 in 1956. There are additional caravans distributed on plots throughout the district, these are occupied by families who are building on the plot, by persons whose employment requires them to live close to their work, and on a chalet estate in the New Milton area. There are no itinerant caravan dwellers.

The residential caravans are normally together on one part of the licensed site, the remainder of the area being reserved for holiday caravans. Of the 10 sites used residentially, 7 are provided with main drainage with flush sanitation, one has flush sanitation with a private drainage scheme, and 2 sites have chemical closets. All sites have waste water disposal points, these being connected to the main sewer where this facility is available. Mains water is available on all sites, one site only has a wash room, two only with baths, and one with showers. The caravans themselves are generally speaking of a good type with stoves for heating, electric or Calor gas lighting and facilities for cooking and preparation of food.

113 of the caravans are occupied by man and wife only, 96 by one person, and 55 where there is one child.

Matters requiring attention totalled 51 and of these 19 were dealt with by the end of the year and the remainder were in hand. Outstanding matters were chiefly in regard to unsatisfactory methods in the disposal of waste water and the remedy required improved type of drainage.

HOUSING

Action under the Housing and Public Health Acts:

1. Number of dwellings made fit or in which defects were remedied after informal action	26
2. After formal action	Nil
3. Number of dwellings demolished as a result of	
Formal action ...	3
Informal action ...	2
4. Number of houses closed	1
5. Number of dwelling houses where undertakings have been accepted ...	Nil
6...Number of persons displaced	6
7. Number of families re-housed by the Council	2

In addition to the above, insecticidal treatment or advice was given in regard to 6 dwellings for flea infestation, 1 for stag beetles, 1 for Cluster Flies, and 1 for Book Lice.

122 investigations were made regarding applications for Council houses and reports submitted to the Committee in 117 instances, 44 families living in overcrowded conditions were re-housed by the Council.

RENT ACT 1957

13 applications for Certificates of Disrepair were received during 1958, and action taken during the year as follows:

Number of applications for certificates	13
Number of decisions not to issue certificates	Nil
Number of decisions to issue certificates	
(a) in respect of some, but not all defects	9
(b) in respect of all defects	3
Number of undertakings given by landlords	5
Number of certificates issued	6
(2 others issued in 1959)	
Application by landlords for cancellation of certificates	4
Objection by tenants to cancellation of certificates	3
Decision by Local Authority to cancel in spite of tenant's objections ...	1
Certificates cancelled by Local Authority	3

Applications for cancellation of Certificates have not been received in some cases although it is known that the repairs required have been completed.

LYMINGTON SEA WATER BATHS

31 samples were taken during the season from the swimming pool; these were examined bacteriologically. Coliforms were present in 22 of the examples and faecal coli present in 20 samples. The faecal contamination was generally low but it does indicate that more efficient chlorination of the swimming pool is highly desirable.

RODENT CONTROL

There is one Rodent Officer/Operator employed by the Council. The following table indicates the work carried out in the Borough under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949.

TYPE OF PROPERTY

	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	Agri- cultural	Business Industrial etc.	Total
1. No. of properties inspected during 1958 as a result of:—					
(a) notification or	—	247	3	28	278
(b) Otherwise	14	343	43	58	458
2. No. of properties found to be infested by rats:					
Major ...	1	—	1	1	3
Minor ...	9	412	14	27	462
3. No. of properties found to be seriously infested by mice	—	14	—	3	17
4. No. of infested premises treated by the Local Authority	10	416	3	31	460
5. No. of “block” control schemes carried out	—	12	—	4	16

The total visits made were 3,021 and 1,759 poison baits were laid. Notification of infestation remains constant, there is a slight increase in the number of instances where rats or mice were found and treatments carried out are a little higher than in 1957. Operational work on farms is not undertaken by the Council and in these cases advice is given by the inspecting officer.

The chief poison used is Warfarin about 98% for both rats and mice, other poisons used are Zinc Phosphide and Antu.

(Signed) **N. Raw,**

Senior Public Health Inspector.

GENERAL REMARKS

The health of the Borough was satisfactory throughout the year.

The incidence of notifiable infectious disease was remarkably low.

The population continued to increase entirely owing to immigration into the area.

The birth rate increased slightly but was still well below the national figure even after allowance was made for the age and sex distribution of the local population.

The death rate was high and this reflects the large number of aged who reside in the area. The adjusted rate compares favourably with the national figure.

Owing to the rapid growth of the Borough in recent years sewage disposal presents difficulties. Some sewers are not large enough to cope satisfactorily with present flows and the works too, tend to be overloaded. The Council is aware of these troubles and is doing what it can progressively to modernise the system. One large scheme is under weigh.

The Sea Water Baths cause disquiet on occasion and the present chlorination leaves much to be desired. A better method of distribution is to be installed and it will be necessary to review the position after due trial.

In conclusion I should like to express my gratitude to the Mayor and Members of the Council for their kindness to me as a newcomer and I am immensely grateful to Mr. Raw and the Additional Inspectors for their hard work and their enthusiastic assistance to me in learning about the problems of a new district.

D. J. N. McNAB,
Medical Officer of Health.

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